



FY-2005 Allied Health Project Grants

Technical Assistance

**Health Resources and Services Administration
Bureau of Health Professions
Division of State, Community, and Public Health
Allied, Geriatrics, and Rural Health Branch**

Allied Health Grant Projects

- **Application Deadline: January 25, 2005**
- **Application Availability Date: October 25, 2004**
- **Grant Award: July 1, 2005**

Application Kit

The Application kit may be obtained from the following sites by:

- **Downloading from
<http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/forms.htm>**

or

- **Contacting the HRSA Grants Application Center at:
The Legin Group, Inc.
901 Russell Avenue, Suite 450
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
Telephone: 877-477-2123
HRSAAGAC@hrsa.gov**

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Allied Health Project Grants website:

<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/interdisciplinary/allhlth.html>

HRSA Funding Opportunities

HRSA Grants:

FY 2005 HRSA Preview

- Concisely summarizes all grant funding opportunities in FY 2005**
- Is downloadable on HRSA webpage:
<http://www.hrsa.gov/grants.htm>**

HRSA Contracts:

Announcement is made on HRSA webpage:

<http://www.hrsa.gov/contract.htm>

Peer Review

Become A Peer Reviewer

- **What Peer Reviewers Gain:**
 - Understanding of the grant-making process
 - Opportunity to network with colleagues
 - Chance to exercise professional judgment and expertise
 - Intellectual challenge
- **How to Apply to be a Peer Reviewer:**
 - Send your curriculum vitae (make sure it includes a cover page expressing your interest in becoming a peer reviewer) as an attachment to an e-mail message to PeerReviewers@hrsa.gov
 - For More Information on Peer Review, phone the HRSA Bureau of Health Professions Office of Peer Review, 301-443-6339.

How Are Grantees Selected?

**Through peer review process,
peer reviewers will:**

- **Assess the responsiveness of applications against published review criteria.**
- **Meet and discuss the technical merits of each application and assign value of merit to each approved application.**

Length of Support

Three (3) years.

Average Award Per Year and **Range of Award Amounts**

FY 2004: \$150,228; \$109,659 - \$189,809

FY 2003: \$151,267; \$116,341- \$186,813

FY 2002: \$111,433; \$63,305 - \$199,621

FY 2001: \$113,214; \$23,176 - \$180,711

Previous Funding Experience

In FY 2004, 39 applications were reviewed, 22 recommended for approval and 14 awarded grant funds. A total of 35 projects (14 new projects ; 34 continuation projects) were funded in the amount of \$4.4 million.

In FY 2003, 30 applications were reviewed, 19 recommended for approval and 4 awarded grant funds. A total of 38 projects (4 new projects ; 34 continuation projects) were funded in the amount of \$4.2 million.

In FY 2002, 30 applications were reviewed, 17 recommended for approval and 17 awarded grant funds. A total 45 projects (17 new projects ; 28 continuation projects) were funded in the amount of \$4.9 million.

Eligibility

Eligible entities are health professions schools, academic health centers, State or local governments, an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, or other public or private nonprofit entities, including faith-based organizations and community-based organizations. Eligible academic institutions are also required to use funds in collaboration with two or more disciplines.

Eligibility *(Cont'd)*

- **All applicants must include a minimum of two distinct allied health disciplines.**
- **All applicants must successfully demonstrate interdisciplinary collaboration in training.**
- **All applicants must complete the program eligibility form. If the applicants fail to meet the program eligibility requirements, the application will be returned.**

Interdisciplinary Training

Interdisciplinary Training means a collaborative process by which health care professionals – faculty, clinical preceptors, and community health providers - plan and coordinate a program of education or training aimed at the preparation and functioning of interdisciplinary health care teams who will create solutions to health care problems that transcend conventional, discipline-specific methods OR who will work together in service of patient care needs.

Interdisciplinary Clinical Experience

It means a structured clinical experience in any appropriate outpatient, home health, public health agency setting, nursing center or hospital for the preparation of functioning teams of two or more health care practitioners from different health disciplines who will coordinate their activities to provide services to a client or group of clients.

Purpose of Allied Health Projects

Section 755 of the Public Health Service Act authorizes the Secretary to award Allied Health Project grants to eligible entities to assist them in meeting the costs associated with expanding or establishing programs that will increase the number of individuals trained in allied health professions.

Statutory Purposes

**Applicants must address at least
one of these Purposes:**

- 1. Expand enrollments in allied health professions with the greatest shortages or whose services are most needed by the elderly;**

Statutory Purposes *(Cont'd)*

- 2. Provide rapid transition training programs in allied health fields to individuals who have baccalaureate degrees in health-related sciences;**
- 3. Establish community-based allied health training programs that link academic centers to rural clinical settings;**

Statutory Purposes *(Cont'd)*

- 4. Provide career advancement training for practicing allied health professionals;**
- 5. Expand or establish clinical training sites for allied health professionals in medically underserved or rural communities in order to increase the number of individuals trained;**

Statutory Purposes *(Cont'd)*

- 6. Develop curriculum that will emphasize knowledge and practice in the areas of prevention and health promotion, geriatrics, long- term care, home health and hospice care, and ethics;**
- 7. Expand or establish interdisciplinary training programs that promote the effectiveness of allied health practitioners in geriatric assessment and the rehabilitation of the elderly; and**

Statutory Purposes *(Cont'd)*

- 8. Expand or establish demonstration centers to emphasize innovative models to link allied health clinical practice, education, and research.**
- 9. Plan, develop and operate or maintain graduate programs in behavioral and mental health professions.**

Definition of Allied Health Professions

Allied health professions include over 200 health professions. Allied health professions include those who:

- Have a certificate, an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, a doctoral degree, or post baccalaureate training, in a science relating to health care;**
- Share in the responsibility for the delivery of health care services or related services.**

Excluded Health Professions **from Allied Health**

- **Physician**
- **Registered Nurse**
- **Physician Assistant**
- **Podiatrist**
- **Health Administrator**
- **Chiropractor**
- **Dentist**
- **Veterinarian**
- **Optometrist**
- **Pharmacist**
- **Public Health**

Examples of Distinctive Allied Health Disciplines:

These examples, but not limited to:

- **Speech Pathology and Nutrition**
- **Medical Technology and Radiography**
- **Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy**
- **Respiratory Therapy and Radiography**
- **Etc.**

Examples of Non-Distinctive Allied Health Disciplines:

- **Dental Hygiene and Dental Assistant**
- **Physical Therapy and Physical Therapy Assistant**
- **Ultrasound, Sonography, Nuclear Medicine and Radiography**
- **Medical Technology, Cytotechnology and Laboratory Assistance**
- **Etc.**

Allied Health Program **Funding Factors**

- **Statutory Funding Preference**
- **Funding Priority**

Statutory Funding Preference

- A “funding preference” is defined as the funding of a specific category or group of approved applications ahead of other categories or groups of approved applications.
- The approved applicants that are above 20th percentile will be divided into two groups. The group which met the funding preference and the group which did not. The group which met the funding preference will be funded first before the group which did not regardless of the score.

Statutory Funding Preference *(Cont'd)*

- All applicants **must complete** the “Statutory Funding Preference Request for Medically Underserved Communities” form for the consideration.
- Applicants may opt one of three below :
 - Preference A
 - Preference B
 - New Program Preference
- Address **only one of three** preferences for consideration.

Statutory Funding Preference *(Cont'd)*

Preference A: Applicant demonstrates a high rate (a minimum of 20%) for placing graduates in medically underserved areas (MUAs).

- Information on Medically Underserved Areas is available at: <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/databases/newmua>.
- Information on Primary Medical Care Health Professionals Shortage Areas is available at: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>.
- Information concerning Local Health Departments, applicants may call the National Association of County Health Officers (NACHO) at (202) 783-5550.

Statutory Funding Preference *(Cont'd)*

Preference B:

Applicant demonstrates that during the 2-year period preceding the fiscal year for which an award is sought, has achieved a significant increase (a minimum 50%) in the rate of placing graduates in medically underserved areas.

***** Make sure you have met a minimum of 50% increase.******

Statutory Funding Preference *(Cont'd)*

New Program Preference:

Applicants must meet four or more of the following seven new program criteria:

- 1. The mission statement of the program identifies a specific purpose of the program as being the preparation of health professionals to serve underserved populations;**
- 2. The curriculum of the program includes content which will help to prepare practitioners to serve underserved populations;**

New Program Preference Criteria

- 3. Substantial clinical training experience is required under the program in medically underserved communities;**
- 4. A minimum of 20 percent of the clinical faculty of the program spend at least 50 percent of their time providing or supervising care in medically underserved communities;**
- 5. The entire program or a substantial portion of the program is physically located in a medically underserved community;**

New Program

Preference Criteria *(Cont'd)*

- 6. Student assistance, which is linked to service in medically underserved communities following graduation, is available to the students in the program;**
- 7. The program provides a placement mechanism for deploying graduates to medically underserved communities.**

Definition of New Program

- **New program refers to any program that has graduated less than three (3) classes**
- **After a program has graduated at least three (3) classes, the program will be able to provide the information necessary for the general funding preference. Therefore, the program will not be considered a new program**

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Funding Factors - Priority

- **A “funding priority” is defined as the favorable adjustment of priority scores of individually approved applications.**
- **Five (5) additional points will be given to those who request and meet.**
- **Applicant must indicate which priority is requested and describe how applicant met the funding priority in the priority request form.**

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Funding Factors – Priority *(Cont'd)*

It will be given to those who meet one of the following:

- Application from a school which qualifies as an institution serving Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, an institution serving Hispanics, a Historically Black College or University, or a Tribal College or University Serving Native Americans;**

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Funding Factors – Priority *(Cont'd)*

- **Activities carried out collaboratively with institutions serving Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, institutions serving Hispanics, Historically Black Colleges or Universities, and Tribal Colleges or Universities serving Native Americans with the purpose of meeting the needs of underserved populations;**

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Funding Factors – Priority *(Cont'd)*

- **Training conducted in underserved areas describe the type of training and the relative emphasis on such training in the curriculum along with a brief description of the underserved areas in which the training occurs;**
- **Additional activities and/or approaches designed to influence trainees to serve in underserved areas.**

Review Criteria

- **Need ----- 5 Points**
- **Response-----20 Points**
- **Evaluative Measures-----20 Points**
- **Impact-----20 Points**
- **Resources / Capabilities-----20 Points**
- **Support Requested-----15 Points**

Total : 100 Points

Tips for Writing A Strong Application

Start preparing the application early to:

- **Gather required information from various sources.**
- **Effectively set up an infrastructure for interdisciplinary collaboration.**
- **Ask peers to read your application for clarity and content and provide you with feedback in time to incorporate their feedback. It may be helpful to provide them with the review criteria in the application kit.**

Tips for Writing A

Strong Application *(Cont'd)*

- **Carefully follow the instructions and make sure to place all information in the order requested in the guidance. If the information is not placed in the requested order, you may receive a lower score.**
- **Thoroughly read and follow the instructions in the guidance carefully. Contact federal program officers with any questions that may result. Many critical flaws can be avoided by clarifying with federal program officers.**

Tips for Writing A Strong Application *(Cont'd)*

Effectively utilize available technical assistance from the federal project officer to:

- Ask about the program eligibility requirements to avoid critical flaws.**
- Ask about any other programmatic questions.**
- Receive feedback on the summary of proposal.**
- Meet in person to discuss your concept proposal.**

Tips for Writing A **Strong Application** *(Cont'd)*

- **Be sure the application's responses to the program requirements and expectations are complete and clearly written - remember that peer reviewers will use only the information contained in the application to assess the application. Do not assume that peer reviewers are familiar with the applicant organization.**

Tips for Writing A **Strong Application** *(Cont'd)*

- **Effectively address each review criteria and clearly communicate to peer reviewers and leave nothing to their imagination.**
- **Please write your application in a “reader friendly” fashion.**

Tips for Writing A

Strong Application *(Cont'd)*

- **Carefully craft and review the summary of the project ensuring its ability to communicate the listed elements in the application.**
- **Strive to make a strong first impression on the peer reviewers by using the summary of the project section to effectively package the whole application.**

Tips for Writing A

Strong Application *(Cont'd)*

- **Be organized and logical - many applications fail to receive a high score because the reviewers cannot follow the thought process of the applicant or because parts of the application do not fit together.**
- **Read your completed application to ensure it “flows well” and is logical.**

Tips for Writing A

Strong Application *(Cont'd)*

- **Strongly recommend to apply for the statutory funding preference - the approved applicants that are above 20th percentile will be divided into two groups: the group A which meet the funding preference and the group B which do not. The group A which meet the funding preference will be funded first before the group B which did not, regardless of the score. Due to limited funds, the group B may not be funded.**

Tips for Writing A

Strong Application *(Cont'd)*

Be brief, concise, and clear to:

- **Make your points understandable. Remember to limit the use of abbreviations and acronyms, and define each one at its first use and periodically throughout application.**
- **Provide accurate and honest information, including candid accounts of problems and realistic plans to address them. If any required information or data is omitted, explain why. Make sure the information provided in each table, chart, attachment, etc., is consistent with the proposal narrative and information in other tables.**

Tips for Writing A

Strong Application *(Cont'd)*

- **Plan a realistic budget reflecting an accurate budget period.**
- **Be careful in the use of appendices. Do not use the appendices for information that is required in the body of the application. Be sure to cross-reference all tables and attachments located in the appendices to the appropriate text in the application.**

Tips for Writing A

Strong Application *(Cont'd)*

- **Carefully proofread the application. Misspellings and grammatical errors will impede reviewers in understanding the application.**
- **Be sure pages are numbered (including appendices) and that page limits are followed. Stay within the page limit (80 pages) including appropriate support letters and other appendices.**

Checklist

Please review the checklist below before submitting the application:

- **The statutory program requirement of meeting the minimum of two or more allied health disciplines are met and clearly demonstrate interdisciplinary collaboration among these disciplines.**
- **Check if you accurately filled out the Allied Health Program Eligibility Form, the Funding Preference Request Form or/and the Funding Priority Request Form for considerations.**

Checklist *(Cont'd)*

- **Check your proposal for completeness before submission to ensure all pages are included. Do not to exceed the 80 page limit. The applications that are exceed page limit will be returned unprocessed.**
- **Applications must be postmarked or submitted electronically by the due date, January 25, 2005. If mailing the application, send the original and two (2)copies of the application.**